Atty. Docket No. 7392/84241

Preliminary Amendment New 371 Application

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request the entry of this Preliminary Amendment.

Applicants amended their specification to incorporate the lineage of this U.S. National

Stage Application.

Applicants have replaced the claims with a newly re-numbered claim set in which claims

1-31 largely relate to former claims 1 and 3-16 and new claims 32 et seq. relate to former claim 2

and its former dependent claims.

Applicants respectfully invite attention to the attached International Preliminary

Examination Report and its determination that then presented claims 1-15 defined a useful, novel

and unobvious (inventive step) invention. It is considered that those allowable claims relate to the

re-numbered and U.S.-style claims 17-44 presented herewith. The new claims are presented to

avoid multiple dependency and to change the European claim format to U.S.-style claim

language.

Favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Date: January 31, 2005

Kendrew H. Colton

Registration No. 30,368

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE TO

Customer No. 42798

FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY

1801 K St. NW - Suite 401L

Washington, DC 20006-1201

Tel: 202-419-7000

Fax: 202-419-7007

8